(*e*) is not Government aware that it is more advisable to select the best book on each subject and then prescribe it than delegating a Committee to write text books;

(*f*) is Government aware that if open competition is allowed, it will facilitate the production of better text books than by giving the monopoly of writing them to a few;

(*g*) is the Government aware that there was a similar proposal for writing text books by the Government of Madras, and that it was subsequently dropped in view of the volume of public opinion against it;

(*h*) whether this practice is obtained in any other part of India;

(*i*) will Government be pleased to reconsider this policy of entrusting text book writing to a body selected by Department?

HON'BLE MR. T. M. VARGHESE: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Proficiency in the subject as well as experience in teaching and writing books.

(*c*) Those who have been selected are most competent for the purpose. All the efficient teachers of the Department are not required for writing books.

(*d*) No. Suitable books prepared according to the new syllabus are not available.

(*e*) This method is followed in regard to subjects for which suitable books published by private firms and authors are available.

(*f*) No. This may be so in regard to non-detailed and similar other books; but in regard to books on subjects such as Chemistry, Physics, etc. which are to be newly prepared in Malayalam and Tamil for the first time, as these languages are made the media of instruction, the result will be far from being satisfactory if they are allowed to be prepared by private agencies during the transitional period.

(*g*) No. This Government has no information.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) In view of the answers given to (b) to (f) this does not arise.

Sales Tax.

510. MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (*Karunagapally II—General*): Will the Honourable Minister for Income Tax be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the administration of sales tax is to be entrusted to the Excise Department;

(*b*) may I know whether Government are aware that the same is handled by separate departments in Provinces and the Income tax departments in States?

HON'BLE MR. C. KESAVAN: (*a*) Government have not taken any decision in the matter.

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(*b*) In some Provinces it is done by the Income Tax Department. In Madras it is done by the Commercial Statistics Department. In Cochin it is undertaken by the Income Tax Department. We have not decided as to which Department ought to deal with this.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: But nowhere by the Excise Department.

HON'BLE MR. C. KESAVAN: I think not.

Sea-going canoes.

511. MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Will the Honourable Minister for Ports be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether two sea-going canoes (ചിപ്പ) have been smashed at the Alleppey Port in the month of Mithunam 1123;

(*b*) if the answer to Part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the cost of the canoes;

(*c*) who the persons responsible for the negligenee are; and

(*d*) what actions have been taken?

HON'BLE MR. T. M. VARGHESE: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Rs. 14,000 each.

(*c*) The loss was due to sudden outburst of monsoon and consequent heavy seas during the night of 9th June 1948. The loss was not due to negligence.

(*d*) The matter has been investigated by the Landing and Shipping Fees Committee who own the lighters, and in view of the fact that the loss was unavoidable, no further action is considered necessary.

Construction of bridges.

512. MR. U. K VASUDEVAN ASARI (*Kottayam III—Kammala*): Will the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have received any petition or other representation regarding the construction of two bridges one at Kayikkara across the ferry and the other at Nedumganda across the Varkala canal so as to have continuous transport from Attingal to Varkala through the Anjengo coir yarn producing centres, Nilakkamukku, Vakkom, Kaikkara, Nedumkanda, Vilathagom, Vettoor and Varkala?

HON'BLE MR. A. ATCHUTHAN: No.

MR. U. K. VASUDEVAN ASARI: കായിക്കരതോട്ടിനും വക്കലതോട്ടിനും കുറുകെ പാലം കെട്ടുന്നതു് വളരെ ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റു കരുതുന്നുണ്ടോ?

HON'BLE MR. A. ATCHUTHAN: ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായിരിക്കും.

MR. U. K. VASUDEVAN ASARI: അഞ്ചുതങ്ങിലെ കയർ വ്യവസായത്തെ പരിപോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു് നെടുങ്കണ്ടയും വക്കലയും തമ്മിൽ ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതു് ആവശ്യമാണെന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റു വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

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